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Attorney Docket No. 04166/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Shoichi NOMURA et al  
Serial No. : 10/802,136  
Filed : March 17, 2004  
For : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM,  
AND IMAGE READING APPARATUS  
Art Unit : 2622  
Examiner :

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TOTAL PAGES: 71

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile  
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*N. Sahadeo*

Nalini P. Sahadeo

Dated: March 22, 2006

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

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S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated February 27,  
2006 issued in a counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of cited publications (except U.S. patents and  
publications); and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying  
the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any  
non-English language publications cited therein  
(MPEP 609 III A(3)).

An English language Abstract is provided for the cited  
Japanese document.

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USP 6,188,807 and US 2001/0041017 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A are counterparts of EP 0 767 575 and EP 1 001 607 cited in the attached European Search Report. See the Annex to the European Search Report.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of February 27, 2006. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in \$1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>	Application Number		10/802,138		
	Filing Date		March 17, 2004		
	First Named Inventor		S. NOMURA		
	Group Art Unit		2622		
	Examiner Name				
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	04166/LH

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		6,188,807	B1	ARAKAWA	02-13-2001	
		2001/0041017	A1	DE QUEIROZ	11-15-2001	
		2002/0048413	A1	KASUNOKI	04-25-2002	
		6,515,704	B1	SATO	02-04-2003	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Offic <sup>2</sup>	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
		EP	0 767 575	A2	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA	04-09-1997		
		JP	10-128733	A	KOGURE MASAOKI	05-15-1998		*
		EP	1 001 607	A2	XEROX CORP	05-17-2000		

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Considered

<sup>1</sup> EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>2</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>3</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>4</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: March 22, 2006